

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PDEV TZ

SUBJECT: G.K. REDDY ON NYERERE'S HOPES FOR GENEVA TALKS ON RHODESIA

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI FROM MADRAS OCT 14 REPEATED:

QUOTE

MADRAS 1847

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, PDEV,TZ

SUBJECT:GK REDDY ON NYERERE'S HOPES FOR GENEVA TALKS ON
RHODESIA

FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF G.K.REDDY ARTICLE TITLED:

"NYERERE HOPEFUL ABOUT OUTCOME OF GENEVA TALKS"

APPEARING IN OCTOBER 14 HINDU.

QUOTE.

PRESIDENT NYERERE SAID TODAY THAT THE WAR AGAINST RACISM
IN RHODESIA, WHICH HAD BEEN GOING ON FOR SOME TIME, WOULD
CONTINUE UNTIL THERE WAS ACTUAL TRANSFER OF POWER FROM THE
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PRESENT WHITE MINORITY REGIME TO THE BLACK MAJORITY.

IN AN INFORMAL CHAT WITH THE INDIAN JOURNALISTS ACCOMPANYING PRIME MINISTER INDIRA GANDHI ON HER CURRENT AFRICAN TRIP, THE TANZANIAN PRESIDENT SOUNDED QUITE HOPEFUL ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE IN GENEVA TO SET UP AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT AS A PRELUDE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MAJORITY RULE.

PRESIDENT NYERERE SAID THAT IF HE WAS NOT HOPEFUL, HE WOULD NOT HAVE ADVISED THE LEADERS OF THE ZIMBABWE NATIONAL MOVEMENTS TO ATTEND THIS CONFERENCE. BUT IN THE EVENT OF A FAILURE, THE WAR OF LIBERATION WOULD BE WAGED WITH RENEWED VIGOUR TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVE OF MAJORITY RULE. THERE WAS NO HARM AT ALL IN ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE, SO LONG AS THE ZIMBABWE LEADERS WERE UNITED IN THEIR DETERMINATION TO WIN THEIR FREEDOM BY WHATEVER MEANS AT THEIR DISPOSAL, BY NEGOTIATIONS IF POSSIBLE OR ELSE THROUGH AN ARMED CONFLICT.

HE WAS NOT UNDULY WORRIED ABOUT THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE LEADERS OF VARIOUS NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONTS FIGHTING FOR RHODESIAN INDEPENDENCE, BECAUSE THEY ALL WANTED MAJORITY RULE. AT THE COMING GENEVA CONFERENCE, THEY SHOULD AGREE ON A COMMON DEFINITION OF TRANSFER OF POWER FOR ENDING THE WHITE MINORITY RULE. ONCE THAT WAS DONE, THERE SHOULD NOT BE MUCH DIFFICULTY IN FORMING A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY DURING THE INTERIM PERIOD TO PREPARE FOR THE ACTUAL TRANSFER OF POWER WITHIN AN AGREED PERIOD OF TIME. AFTER A PROPER CONSTITUTION HAD BEEN FRAMED, THERE WOULD BE ELECTIONS AND THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES WOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DECIDE WHICH PARTY SHOULD RULE THEM.

RISK OF CIVIL WAR

PRESIDENT NYERERE SAID THAT THE REAL DANGER WAS THAT, IF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE FAILED TO BRING ABOUT AN EARLY TRANSFER OF POWER WITHIN AN AGREED TIME FRAME, THE DIFFERENT NATIONAL LIBERATION GROUPS NOW FIGHTING FOR RHODESIAN INDEPENDENCE MIGHT DRIFT FURTHER APART AND TRY TO CARRY ON THE WAR SEPARATELY WITHOUT ANY COORDINATION. IT COULD LEAD TO A CIVIL WAR WHEN POWER WAS ACTUALLY WRESTED THROUGH AN ARMED CONFLICT, AS IT HAD HAPPENED

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IN SOME OTHER COUNTRIES IN SIMILAR SITUATIONS.

AS FAR AS THE FIVE FRONTLINE STATES WERE CONCERNED, PRESIDENT NYERERE SAID, THEY WOULD BE PREPARED TO SEND OBSERVERS TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, IF THE ZIMBABWE LEADERS WANTED THEM. IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR THESE STATES TO ACCEPT THE BRITISH INVITATION ON THEIR OWN, SINCE IT WOULD IMPAIR THE ESSENTIAL CHARACTER OF THIS CONFERENCE. IT WAS ESSENTIALLY A CONFERENCE BETWEEN

BRITAIN, IN ITS CAPACITY AS THE COLONIAL POWER THAT WAS STILL LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR RHODESIA, AND THE LEADERS OF THE NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS TO DISCUSS THE PROCEDURES FOR AN ORDERLY TRANSFER OF POWER WITHIN AN AGREED TIME-LIMIT. IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT BRITAIN WAS NOT SHOULDERING THIS PRIMARY RSPOSIBILITY AND ATTEMPTING TO WIDEN THE SCOPE OF THIS CONFERENCE.

PRESIDENT NYERERE SPOKE WITH GREAT PASSION AND CONVICTION WITHOUT OVER-STATING THE AFRICAN CASE, CHOOSING HIS WORDS WITH GREAT CARE. AS HE EXPLAINED HE COMPLEXITIES OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN SITUATION. THERE WAS A CONTINUING STRUGGLE, HE SAID, IN THIS WHOLE REGION FOR RACIAL EQUALITY AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE. THOUGH THE ARMED STRUGGLE IN RHODESIA WAS MUCH MORE ADVANCED THAN IN ZAMBIA, IT WAS BEING CARRIED AT DIFFERENT LEVELS AND IN DIFFERENT WAYS TO ACHIEVE THE COMMON OBJECTIVE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. HE WAS HAPPY THAT COUNTRIES LIKE INDIA, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS AFRICA'S GREAT NEIGHBOUR AND TRUSTED FRIEND, CONTINUED TO SUPPORT THEIR CAUSE. HE HAD NO DOUBT WHATSOEVER THAT SOONER THAN LATER THE AFRICAN PEOPLE WOULD SUCCEED IN SHAKING OFF THE REMAINING SHACKLES OF COLONIALISM AND RACISM.

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